

Application No.: 10/088,070
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11 are in the application. Claim 6 has been amended to elaborate on the disposition of the sleeve between the axial bore of the tool holder and the tool shank or part which is to be held. These amendments do not narrow the scope of claim 6; they only make more explicit that which was originally therein. Claims 10 and 11 have been added, depending from claim 6, to afford additional protection for the invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2-41807 (hereinafter “the Japanese patent”). In response to Applicant’s previous arguments, the Examiner indicated that the spindle 10 of the Japanese patent “holds therein a ceramic sleeve 11 which has a tapered face 11c that ultimately holds a tool thereby...and the spindle 10 ultimately serves to ‘hold’ a tool”. The Examiner also asserted that “since tapered bore 11c of sleeve 11 contacts a toolholder or tool shank...to hold the toolholder or tool shank within the bore, the sleeve 11 ‘transfers a holding action’ in a cold state to the toolholder or tool shank, and thus to the claimed ‘tool shank or part’.”

The Japanese patent is directed to a machine tool spindle 10 having a ceramic sleeve 11 disposed in an opening in an end thereof. The ceramic sleeve 11 includes a tapered bore for

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holding a tool holder. No specific configuration of an actual tool holder is shown or disclosed in the Japanese patent.

Claim 6 is directed to a heat shrink tool holder for holding a tool shank or machine part which comprises “a body having an axial bore” and “a sleeve fitting in the axial bore of the body”. Further, “the sleeve having a second bore to fit onto the tool shank or part, wherein the sleeve is a reducing sleeve that transfers a holding action exerted by the body in its cold state to the tool shank or part.” As mentioned above, the Japanese patent fails to show any configuration of a tool holder. As set forth in the previous response, the ceramic sleeve disclosed in the Japanese patent is intended to be outside of a tool holder, and, in effect, is a ceramic liner for the spindle bore. Without any specific disclosure of the construction of a tool holder, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Japanese patent to place a sleeve inside of a body of a tool holder, as set forth in claim 6.

Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Japanese patent to have the ceramic sleeve 11 fit onto a tool shank or machine part. As shown in the figures of the Japanese patent, the ceramic sleeve 11 defines a tapered bore. As is known in the art, the tapered bore is formed to fit a tapered tool holder which, in turn, holds a tool shank or machine part. With reference to the English abstract of the Japanese patent, it states therein that the ceramic sleeve has “a tapered face [for] holding a toolholder as [an] interference fit into [the] spindle body”. The ceramic

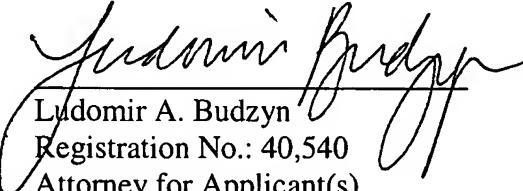
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sleeve 11 would not be directly fit onto a tool shank or machine part, and there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Japanese patent to have the sleeve 11 be formed with a bore to fit onto a tool shank or part as set forth in claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that claim 6, along with dependent claims 7-11, are patentable over the Japanese patent.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions or if additional information is required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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